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ABSTRACT

This select annotated bibliography is designed to assist patrons of the Langworthy Public Library (Hope Valley, Rhode Island), which has a varied collection of books and materials on Rhode Island history. Specifically featured is the area of Chariho (Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton). Some items concerning nearby Exeter and West Greenwich have been included. Materials are listed by location in the collection: circulating, reference, and archives. The bibliography is not comprehensive but rather a sample of what the library has to offer. Exact spelling and punctuation, as well as call numbers of older materials, have been used. (EH)

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A Selected Bibliography of the Rhode Island Collection in the Langworthy Public Library Hope Valley, Rhode Island

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May 6, 1996

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The Langworthy Public Library has a varied collection of books and materials on Rhode Island History and is often visited by people interested in learning about local history as well as others seeking genealogical information. This selected bibliography is designed to assist those patrons who are specifically interested in the Chariho (Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton) area. Some items relating to nearby Exeter and West Greenwich have been included. It is by no means comprehensive but rather a taste of what the library has to offer. Historic materials on the state of Rhode Island have been described since they contain some local information. Much of the collection is retrospective in nature. Some of the material is not current but nevertheless worthwhile to those patrons interested in history.

This paper is also valuable as a model to other libraries interested in developing a local history collection.

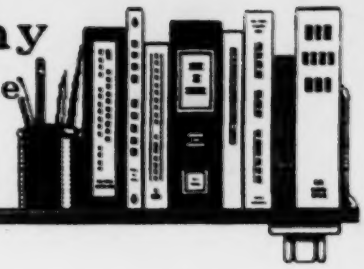
Materials in the Rhode Island Collection include both a circulating and reference collection as well as archival materials. There is some overlap with multiple copies of certain materials housed in more than one location. The bibliography is organized in three parts to assist the user in selecting useful materials in their correct location at the Langworthy Public Library.

It should also be noted that exact spelling and punctuation as well as call numbers of older materials have been used.

The compiler of this bibliography wishes to express appreciation to Josephine Langworthy, Jane Smith and Lucy Rawlings Tootell for sharing their knowledge of the Archives with her.

A Selected Bibliography

of the Rhode Island Collection in the
Langworthy Public Library
Hope Valley, Rhode Island



This bibliography is designed to help patrons who are interested in the history of the Chariho area. Some items concerning nearby Exeter and West Greenwich have been included. It is not comprehensive but rather a sample of what the library has to offer. Materials are listed by location - Circulating, Reference, and Archives. Multiple copies of certain materials are housed in more than one area. The information is organized to assist the user in locating information at the Langworthy Public Library.

CIRCULATNG COLLECTION

RI 551.5Gre
Providence Journal Company. The Great Hurricane and Tidal Wave Rhode Island September 21, 1938. Providence: 1938

This book provides a glimpse of the conditions after the destructive hurricane with a multitude of sepia toned photographs. An introductory essay provides some historical description of events. Another chapter gives a meteorological study of the hurricane along with weather maps and charts. There is no table of contents or index.

RI 641.5Ric
Tested Recipes: Contributed by Members and Friends of the Richmond Visiting Nurse Association. Richmond, RI: 1925.

Although technically a local "cookbook". this slim volume presents an interesting view of small town life in the twenties. Notes on the purpose of the Richmond Visitng Nurse Association, advertisements, household hints, etc. add to the reader's knowledge of the period. There are twelve chapters and names of local people accompany the recipes.

RI 818Lee
Lees, Jeannie Cruickshank. The Lamplighter 1899 and Other Short Stories. Hopkinton, RI: Privately printed, 1987.

This pamphlet written in a conversational tone contains brief sketches and humorous anecdotes about life in southwestern Rhode Island in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Historical information about local one-room schools is provided along with some statistics from 1859. There is a table of contents.

RI 900Sti
Metcalf School TAG (Talented and Gifted Program). A Stitch in Time: A Historical Sampler of Exeter and West Greenwich. Exeter, RI: Privately printed, 1989.

This book contains the results of a project by seventh and eighth grade students designed to "reflect the heritage and character of two towns" including interviews, research and artwork. Information on the schools, mills, libraries, town halls, and landscapes, is supplemented by photographs and drawings. Some are in color but most are black and white. There is no index or table of contents.

RI 917.45Ste
Steinberg, Sheila, and McGuigan, Cathleen. Rhode Island: An Historical Guide. Providence, RI: RI Bicentennial Foundation, 1976.

This book was designed to identify the architectural heritage in Rhode Island towns at the time of the Bicentennial. Each of the twenty-one chapters begins with a very brief introduction to the town. Places and items of architectural interest are listed with a short description. A table of contents, detailed index, bibliography, maps and sketches are included as well as a glossary of architectural terms used in the text. Chapters are of varying length. Being twenty years old, the book is somewhat out of date - some of the buildings in Hopkinton have now been restored.

RI 920Cra
Crandall, Julian Titsworth, ed. A Crandall Heritage and Legacy: The Allston Julian Crandall Branch. Ashaway, RI: Privately printed, 1978. (TRT Publications Beverly, MA).

Written for future generations to understand their family background, heritage, etc. this book provides biographical and directory type information on the Crandall family. There are eight chapters, a table of contents and photographs. A family tree is printed on fold out pages.

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RI 929Cra
Crandall, Margaret W. Crandall One Branch of the Tree. Westerly, RI: Sun Graphics, 1992.

Another source of data on the Crandall family from 1636 through 1990, this book also provides historical information on Hopkinton and Westerly. There are many good quality photographs. Essays on twentieth century life vary from housekeeping in 1909, millwork, world wars, to family life in the Fifties. There is a section devoted to Prudence Crandall. Basic biographical data on many family members is included. A table of contents, bibliography, and maps are useful.

RI 973Cha
"Yankee Ingenuity: Can the Government It Forged Survive?": 18 Oral History Interviews. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, 1976.

This spiral bound book contains transcripts of interviews with long time residents of the Chariho area by high school seniors. It provides a historical record of the views of these citizens on topics such as education, town meetings, a proposed nuclear plant, etc. It is interesting to note that although the interviews were conducted twenty years ago, the problems and viewpoints are similar to those of today. There is a table of contents and an introduction.

RI 973.7Van
Van Den Bossche, Kris, ed. "Pleas Excuse All Bad Writing": A Documentary History of Rhode Island During the Civil War Era 1854-1865. Peacedale, RI: Rhode Island Historical Document Transcription Project, 1993.

This source is composed of actual letters written in the time of the Civil War. They are historically accurate with spelling and grammar exactly as originally written. There is also a diary entry from a soldier. Items are of varying length. Footnotes added by the editor clarify people and places referred to in the text. Photographs, an introductory essay, table of contents, and bibliographic sources consulted add to the usefulness of this work.

RI 974.5Con
Conley, Patrick T. An Album of Rhode Island History, 1636-1986. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1986.

A pictorial view of the state's history, the book includes a table of contents, an index and bibliographic references. This newer source provides an interesting look at Rhode Island's past.

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RI974.5Lee
Lees, Jeannie C. Men in Militia 1898: Spanish American War. Hopkinton, RI: By the author, 1986.

This simply written pamphlet begins with a short introduction giving a list of names useful for genealogical research as well as a "list of trades" of the time period derived from town records. The remainder of the booklet gives basic statistics on the men of Hopkinton, RI who were drafted in 1898. Name, residence, birthplace, age, and occupation are listed. There is no index.

RI 974.5Man
Mandeville, Frances Wharton. The Historical Story of Charlestown, RI 1669-1976. Charlestown Historical Society, 1979.

Supplemented with photographs, a summary of the town's history is presented. It is divided into four parts: 1669-1800, 1800-1900, 1900-1976 and the fourth part contains other information on such things as the early schools and shipwrecks. It is simply written and contains both a table of contents and a reference list.

RI 974Dri
Tootell, Lucy Rawlings, ed. Driftways Into the Past. Westerly, RI: Richmond Historical Society, 1977.

Twenty-two chapters provide a variety of information written by local residents on topics from ranging from war heroes and schoolhouse memories to anecdotes about life in earlier days. A generous amount of photographs both old and modern, maps, and sketches supplement the text. A 1774 census list of families and a Civil War militia list add to the data about Richmond residents.

RI 974.5Seg
Segar, Gladys, and Salomen, Betty. Water Power Revisited: A Circle of Dam Sites Along the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. 1980.

A sense of the past and the relationship of the mills to the villages is found in this book. Sixteen brief chapters enlighten the reader about the area's history. Good quality photographs of people and places, maps, and drawings as well as sidebar information on each of the dams make this a very useful and entertaining source. An added bonus is a map for modern day travelers to visit each of the sites. There is a table of contents and a bibliography. The library also has a slide presentation to accompany this book.

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RI 974.5Sim
Simister, Florence Parker. A Short History of Exeter, RI. USA: Exeter Bicentennial Commission, 1978.

Prepared for the bicentennial celebration, this is a brief look at the founding of Exeter, the history of the schools, library and churches. Information on social conditions, transportation and economic development is also covered. There are some photographs, a map of "historic" Exeter, and a table of contents.

RI 974.59Utt
Utter, George B. Old "Westerle", 1636-1936 Rhode Island. Westerly, RI: Westerly Chamber of Commerce, 1936.

Originally published as a pamphlet for the 300th anniversary of the state of Rhode Island, this small hard cover book provides both local history and a look at 1936 "Tourist" information. Historical figures such as Oliver H. Perry and Prudence Crandall, early settlers of the area, and social conditions are discussed. Much of the information describes events of the tercentenary celebration including the "Westerle Through the Years" pageant. It is easy to read and has a table of contents which functions as an index.

REFERENCE COLLECTION

REF RI 370.95Sto
Stockwell, Thomas B. History of Public Education in Rhode Island 1636-1876: Embracing An Account of the Rise and Progress of the Present School System of the State; the Various City and Town Systems; Together With Sketches of Brown University and Many of the Academies, Libraries, and Literary Associations of Rhode Island. Providence, RI: Providence Press Company, 1876.

This comprehensive work is composed of signed essays and articles on education in Rhode Island. Along with major sections on Providence and Newport schools, there are articles by various school superintendents covering the history of education, basic organization, materials, methods, and "present" conditions in their towns. Articles vary in length. A table of contents and a detailed index assist the researcher.

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REF RI 974.5And
Andrews, Hope Greene. Hopkinton City: "The Williamsburg of Hopkinton, Rhode Island". Revised 2nd ed. Privately printed, 1985.

Early history, descriptions of various buildings, vignettes of colonial life, family histories, etc. are all found in this spiral bound volume. An introduction by Lucy Rawlings Tootell, illustrations by Patty Andrews, black and white photographs, and maps supplement the text. A table of contents is included.

REF RI 974.56Gri
Griswald, S.S. Rev. Historical Sketch of the Town of Hopkinton: From 1757 to 1876, Comprising a Period of One Hundred and Nineteen Years. Hope Valley, RI: Wood River Advertiser Press, 1877.

Written in the language of the times, the settlement of Westerly and then of Hopkinton is covered. Civil history, amusements, superstitions, industry, education and religion are all discussed. The reader must note that views expressed do not necessarily coincide with those of today especially in the chapter titled "Aborigines". There is biographical data on the Babcock and Wells families. There is a table of contents and an appendix for additional information. An index to Westerly and Its Witnesses is included in this book.

REF RI 974.59Iri
Irish, James R. Historical Sketch of the Town of Richmond From 1747 to 1876: Comprising a Period of One Hundred and Twenty-nine Years. Hope Valley, RI: LWA Cole, 1877.

Written as a "historical paper to be read to the citizens of Richmond on the centennial anniversary day of the nation", this book is similar to the one above. However it provides more insight into life in nineteenth century New England. There is an interesting discussion of a Quaker marriage ceremony. Some tax information, genealogy data and military lists are included. There is a detailed index but no table of contents.

REF RI 975.56Hop
Hopkinton Bicentennial Commission. History of the Town of Hopkinton, Rhode Island 1757-1976. Westerly, RI: By the Author, 1976.

Fifteen chapters describe the settlement and development of the town of Hopkinton with specific chapters devoted to churches, schools, business and industry, libraries, government, cemetaries, etc. Information on historic landmarks as well as interesting anecdotes are included. Black and white photographs and drawings highlight the text. A brief reference list is included as well as a table of contents.

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ARCHIVES COLLECTION

ARCHIVES 929Lil
Lillibridge, Donna E., and Lillibridge, John L. eds. The Lillibridges of the World. Franklin, NC: Genealogy Publishing Service, 1994.

This title is included as an example of a family genealogy. A table of contents, bibliographical references, index, and list of abbreviations used as well as photographs and maps are included. The introductory chapters explain the procedures used in compiling the information. The library has similar genealogies on other families though this seems to be the most extensive one.

ARCHIVES 929Rep
Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island: Genealogical Records and Historical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and of Many of the Old Families. 3 vols. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1908.

This book is basically biographical data arranged by family. It gives family history, a detailed sketch of character, education, activities, politics, and travel for each person. There is also a lot of interesting information such as a description of the duties of the "Life Saving Service" after a shipwreck off Watch Hill in 1872. As the preface states, "many of the sketches contain items of history which would be preserved no other way." It is illustrated and has a detailed index of names at the beginning of each volume.

ARCHIVES 973.4Arn
Arnold, James A. ed. The Narragansett Historical Register. vols. 2, 4, 6. Hamilton, RI: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1883-1888.

A cummulation of issues of a "magazine devoted to the antiquities, genealogy and historical matter illustrating the history of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" these books provide statistics on marriages and deaths, church and town history, social events, etc. Queries and Answers to Queries along with the Editorial Notes provide an insight into the late eighteen hundreds. Most articles are signed. Material is indexed by category at the front of each volume. There are black and white sketches and photographs.

ARCHIVES 974.0042Col
Coldham, Peter Wilson. The Complete Book of Emmigrants. 4 vols. Surrey, England: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1987-1993.

After an introductory essay on emmigration, the reader will find a comprehensive listing in chronological order of people who traveled to America from England for various reasons. Name, destination and name of ship are given. A list of abbreviations used and sources of data are supplied. A surname index is provided. Coldham's book is recommended by American Archivist.

ARCHIVES 974.49Arn
Arnold, James N. ed. Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636-1850 First Series: Births, Marriages and Deaths: a Family Register for the People. 26 vols. Providence, RI: Narragansett Historical Publishing Co., 1891.

The information in this book was compiled from town, church and newspaper records although the author notes that prior to 1850 many births, deaths, etc were never recorded. Information is indexed by town and then family name. Other volumes include church records some of which describe the burial spot. Revolutionary War rolls and newspaper accounts of marriages and deaths are also to be found here. Brief histories of some newspapers are provided.

ARCHIVES 974.5Arn
Arnold, Samuel Greene. History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations: From the Settlement of the State 1636, to the Adoption of the Federal Constitution 1790. 2 vols. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1859-1860.

This scholarly detailed work covers the early history of the state. There is a table of contents and preface. Each volume is indexed separately. A colored map is included.

ARCHIVES 974.5Bea

Beaman, Alden Gamaliel. ed. Rhode Island Vital Records, New Series. Vol. 2, Washington County, Rhode Island, Births 1770 to 1850. Princeton, MA: By the author, 1976.
Vol. 3, Washington County, Rhode Island, Births and Marriages From Gravestone Inscriptions, 1688-1850. Princeton, MA: By the author, 1977.
Vol. 4, Washington County, Rhode Island, Births From Probate Records, 1685-1860. Princeton, MA: By the author, 1978.
Vol. 5, Washington County, Rhode Island Marriages From Probate Records, 1685-1860. Princeton, MA: By the author, 1978.
Vol. 8-9, Washington County, Rhode Island, Births, 1760-1860, From Death and Marriage Records. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Genealogical Research Institute, 1981.

This series was designed to serve as a complement to Arnold's Vital Records providing new data. Sources of information are identified by the title of each volume. A list of abbreviations and an explanation of how to interpret entries is given in the preface.

ARCHIVES 974.5Bic

Bicknell, Thomas Williams. The History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence PLantations. 3 vols. New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1920.

This scholarly work has two volumes of biographical information arranged by family with black and white photographs. There is a name index to aid the reader. There is general history of Rhode Island. Information is also given about settlement, wars, manufacturing, physicians, taverns, and landmarks. Brief town histories are given in the appendix. Also included are lists of Indian place names. There is an index arranged by topic.

ARCHIVES 974.5Col

Cole, J.R. History of Washington and Kent Counties, Rhode Island: Including Their Early Settlements and Progress to the Present Time; a Description of Their Historic and Interesting Localities; Sketches of Their Towns and Villages; Portraits of Some of Their Prominent Men, and Biographies of Many of Their Representative Citizens. New York: W.W. Preston & Co., 1889.

The title says it all. It is not difficult to read. It has a detailed table of contents with a list of illustrations and portraits. There are some colored maps. There is no index and reference sources are listed in the preface.

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ARCHIVES 974.5Fie
Field, Edward A. B., State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century: a History. 3 vols. Boston: Mason Publishing Co., 1902.

Volume I discusses the general history of Rhode Island along with military and naval history. Volume II is a compendium of information on religion, education, commerce, transportation, libraries and newspapers. Volume III presents munincipal histories, judicial, financial, industrial, charities, criminals, and societies. The editor planned this as a supplement to continue Samuel G. Arnold's History of Rhode Island which concluded with 1790. Footnotes, a table of contents, a list of illustrations, and a detailed index are very useful. Considering the language of the period, it is not difficult to read.

ARCHIVES 974.5Rec
Bartlett, John Russell, ed. Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England. Vols. 2 - 10. Providence, RI: General Assembly, 1857.

The verbatim records of the proceedings of the General Assembly as well as the Rhode Island Charter, correspondence over border disputes, records of meetings, etc. can be found here. Thus it is very academic in tone. A somewhat detailed index is provided. Local history can be found if you know what you are searching for in the index.

ARCHIVES 974.59Cha
Charlestown Bicentennial Book Committee. Reflections of Charlestown, RI 1876-1976: A Memorial to the Bicentennial Celebration of the United States of America. Westerly, RI: The Utter Company, 1976.

Written in a simple conversational tone, this book describes the villages, places and personalities of Charlestown's past. Chapters are divided into subtopics. There are black and white photographs. There is a table of contents but no index.

ARCHIVES 974.59Sal
Salomen, Betty, and Hoffman, Tess, eds. Hope Valley Revived, The Recorded Past: Photographs and Oral History. Providence: Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, 1977.

This collection of photographs was designed to show the changes in a typical mill valley from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Each of the fifty-one plates is accompanied by a quotation from a resident of the area. There is no index or table of contents.

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Other Archival Materials

The following are examples of what can be found in the Archives Collection of the Langworthy Public Library. The items are located in filing cabinets and locked cases, therefore they do not have call numbers.

Hopkinton Historical Association. Hopkinton Notes. 1977-1982

Richmond Historical Society. Newsletter. 1968-

The newsletters of the local historical groups contain information on town history, genealogy, cemetaries, and other items of interest to the membership. Some indexing is available.

Palmer, Gladys E. Unpublished papers. CA 1920-1980.

The Gladys Palmer collection contains a variety of information from scrapbooks to genealogy research and local history as well as land evidence records and wills.

Tootell, Lucy Rawlings. Wood River Branch Railroad Company Collection. CA 1872-1948.

This collection includes newspaper articles, maps, photographs, correspondence and memorabilia of the named railroad. The library also has the original Secretary's Reports and surveyor's maps.

Whitford, Marcus L. Military and Biographical Papers. CA 1916-1992.

The library has the complete collection of the private papers, letters, military notebooks, etc. belonging to the late Captain Marcus L. Whitford, United States Navy. Newspaper articles, copies of speeches, maps and charts can also be examined. In addition, the Log of the USS Lenoir and authentic maps of the Pacific Theater, WWII are housed in the Archives.

Family Genealogies.

The library has several published family genealogies including: Baton, Burdick, Card, Coon (Maccoon), Crandall, Gavitt, Greene, Hoxsie-Lewis, Lillibridge, Mills, Moon, Nichols, Palmer, Reade, Segar-Greene, Soule and Watson among others.

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Scrapbooks. CA 1890-1970

The library is the home of several sets of scrapbooks collected by various members of the community containing newpaper clippings, photographs, wedding announcements and obituaries of historical interest.

Subject Files.

The archives also has information on each town in the Chariho area (as well as some others) organized in files. Materials include but are not limited to news clippings, speeches, letters, maps, etc.

Lynda M. Gamble
5/96

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